

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## ATA, SAC, DCA and Ministry Tourism sign MOU of support for Carnival



The signing, L to R: CEO of ATA Ronella Tjin-Asjoe, Hildward Croes of Musica, Minister Oduber, SAC's Tecla Kelly and Frank Croes of DCA



Minister Oduber and Tecla Kelly seal the deal with a handshake

ORANJESTAD -- On Thursday morning, January 9, with the official commencement of Aruba's Diamond Jubilee Carnival about to take place tonight, Aruba's official tourism and cultural entities signed a Memorandum of Agreement, or MOU, providing financial support for this year's event, as well as funds earmarked specifically for

Stichting Musica-Foundation Musica.

The foundation, represented by Hildward Croes, took over the organization and staging of one of the most important of events of any carnival, the Caiso and Soca Monarch Festival. This is a week-long competition to select the official road march of the current carnival, and to crown the Calypso and Road March Kings or Queens. The pre-finals take place over several evenings, winnowing down the contestants and ending with a final "battle of the bands," which this year will be on Saturday evening, February 1. The music se-

lected that night will dominate parades and events for the remainder of Carnival 60.

Minister of Tourism, Transport, Primary Sector and Culture, Otmar Oduber acknowledged the importance of carnival to the island's tourism product, citing it as one of the "most significant manifestations of the island's cultural heritage." It attracts visitors from around the globe and is deployed extensively by the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) in its promotion of Aruba at various trade shows and advertising.

Frank Croes of the Department of Culture, (DCA) cited the Caiso and Soca Monarch Festival for its continuing role in the encouragement of creative musical composition and its important place in the propagation of Aruba's native culture and traditions. The DCA will be contributing 40,000 Aruban florins (\$23,000 U.S.) with the intent of elevating the quality of participants and their compositions with more attractive prizes, as well as enhancing the actual event.

Continued on pg 4

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## Obama to unveil spying reforms on January 17

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama will unveil reforms to the country's spying activities on January 17, his spokesman said Friday, following a review of the National Security Agency (NSA).

White House spokesman Jay Carney said that Obama's remarks next Friday would show the "outcomes of the work that has been done on the review process."

The White House said on Thursday that the president was nearing the end of his soul searching about US spying reforms as he met lawmakers who oversee the intelligence community.

Obama met the delegation in Washington as part of consultations with players on all sides of the debate on how best to balance US security and privacy rights, following revelations of massive spy agency snooping by fugitive contractor Edward Snowden.

The meeting included several prominent critics of NSA phone and data sweeps. Obama says revelations over the program by Snowden have undermined public confidence in the work of the US intelligence community and reforms are needed.

Republican House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, who was one of the lawmakers in the meeting, called on the president to explain why such vast data mining programs -- which spy chiefs say help piece together links between terror suspects worldwide -- were necessary.

Senior US officials have indicated Obama is considering whether to permit the programs to continue while requiring data to be held either by technology companies or a third party instead of the NSA. Intelligence officers would have to obtain court permission to access the phone records.

### GENERATION Z...

By: René C.W. Boender  
Brain-agent & author  
"Great to Coo"1 & "Cool is Hot"

Third Instalment in a the series (see pg 3)





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## Ministers respond to announcement of closing of Westin Resort



**Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber**

PALM BEACH -- In early November of last year, the operators of RIU resort reported they reached an agreement with Wells Fargo Bank to purchase their majority shares of Aruba Hotel Enterprises, N.V., the owners of the property which now houses and runs the Westin Aruba Resort. On Thursday, January 9, the new majority shareholders, operating under the name of Infinity S.L. along with Starwood, owners of the Westin franchise, informed employees during a general meeting that the hotel will close its doors on February 27, 2014.

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport, Primary Sector & Culture, Otmar Oduber and Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Labor, Paul Croes, responded publicly to the news on Friday morning, as the issues raised by this turn of events are directly under their administration.

Minister Oduber commended the new operators for wishing to close the resort for extensive renovations and improvements, which are expected to take around one year. He is of the opinion the



**Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Paul Croes**

hotel, which has been operating under the Westin flag since December of 2006, was not quite up to the standards Aruba's tourism entities would prefer island resorts to maintain. The new operators plan to invest 35 to 60 million dollars over the next year in bringing the resort up to spec. It would be expected at that time for it to re-open under the RIU flag.

Principal concern for Minister Croes is the impact on the more than 400 employees of the resort, which includes nearly 100 working in the casino. A number of the employees have worked at the resort since it first opened its doors 35 years ago.

During the meeting, the associates were informed they would be offered severance packages, but it was the intention of management to start with a clean slate when reopening.

"This came as a complete surprise to us," stated one employee, "we thought our jobs were protected under the new labor laws passed last year. It has been a practice in the past for existing employees to continue at the hotel,

which has had a number of incarnations over the years. We are quite confused about this turn of events."

It was reported that during the meeting, staffers were told they would each be offered severance packages, and were welcome to reapply for employment when the resort is about to reopen and is hiring again. They were told that because of their former association, those with satisfactory work records will receive preference, however, this is not guarantee of employment. The associates were also informed they were free to refuse the severance

package, which would mean taking Aruba Hotel Enterprises to court, and that the hotel was "not doing anything "not legal."

Minister Croes has already conferred with Director Kock of the Labor Office, and they are preparing to receive any employees who wish to challenge the severance package. A commission is being formed, which will formally examine all the terms of an offer and judge on its fairness. They advise employees of the Westin to come talk to them if they are considering action, and to become fully versed with their rights under

the current labor laws.

Also under consideration is the construction workers who will be employed during the upcoming renovations. The new owners report they will require around 400 to complete the project on schedule. The Minister of Labor has urged them to first exhaust all possibilities within the local labor market before considering importing workers. Before issuing working permits, they would like to see an honest effort to employ local help both in the construction phase and afterwards, when staffing the resort.

By Rosalie Klein



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## GENERATION Z; The unstoppable rise of a digital generation



René Boender

Third Instalment in a the series by the internationally recognized marketing maven

### Seven trends

In which world will Generation Z come of age? To get an idea, we must take a look at a number of major global trends. These trends have been identified at a macro level by authorities including McKinsey, IBM and IMD. Considering how the world is becoming increasingly smaller, they definitely have an impact on the Netherlands, too.

#### 1. Demographic shifts

Populations around the globe are ageing. Cities are growing, rural communities are vanishing and we are seeing more and more ethnic groups demanding their place in the world.

#### 2. The evolution of the information economy

Developments in digital technology are making it possible to connect everything. In addition, more individual and collective data is becoming available. The boundary between what we share voluntarily and involuntarily is becoming increasingly blurred. A drawback to this development is the increasing unreliability of information.

#### 3. Globalisation

On the one hand, doing away with borders and trade barriers fosters economic growth and cultural equalization; on the other hand, it can lead to a rise in nationalism and religious fundamentalism. This conflict will continue to involve us for decades to come.

#### 4. New world leaders

The economic and political stagnation in both the United States and Europe sets the stage for new world leaders from Asia and South America. We will see countries from these emerging regions of the world have an influence on politics as well as trade and social matters. Brazil, Turkey, India and China in particular will assume these roles.

sume these roles.

#### 5. A surplus of labour and a lack of talent

Thanks to the emergence of Asian economies we are seeing a tremendous increase of unschooled workers. Production outsourcing will continue to be a factor in years to come. At the same time, we are seeing a shortage of highly trained employees with a flair for innovation. These individuals will be able to write their own ticket when it comes to employment and work conditions.

#### 6. Depletion of natural resources

Water, energy, food and living space will become increasingly scarce. Climate change is a reality. Prices for commodities will continue to rise. The search for renewable energy will intensify further. The "green revolution" now visible in every sector is a result of the realization that we are depleting the earth.

#### 7. Distrust of big business

The loss of trust in major multinational companies, particularly in the banking and finance sector, will continue to haunt us for many years to come. Corporations will be forced to meet higher standards of accountability and

transparency. Big business will no longer automatically be regarded as the driving force behind social changes; instead, it will be viewed as a potential problem.

### Twelve statements

Looking at the accelerating technological developments, demographic trends and social changes on the horizon, we now would like to present 12 statements that paint a picture of Generation Z in the year 2020. We will first look at the general trends and then take a closer look at the workplace.

Naturally, nobody can say for sure what the world will look like in 2020. Not even Eiffel. Consequently, these statements are not intended to act as any kind of crystal ball; instead, they are designed to inspire and stimulate in order for us to be more prepared to face the future.

#### Statement 1: The first network generation enters the workplace in 2020

Generation Z is growing up in a world in which networking is the norm. Hyves boasts nearly 10 million members in the Netherlands, and Facebook membership had reached half a billion

worldwide by the time this went to press. Hyves and Facebook (and every other online network) are actually collections of social networks. You are not a member of Facebook; you are a member of your networks on Facebook. Groups of friends, mutual interests and events are all incentives for forming all sorts of networks, permanent and temporary alike. An important identifying trait of these social networks is their organic structure. The number of connections you have and how you communicate determines whether you are at the centre of a network or more off to the side. Another trademark is how everyone talks to one another without ever actually seeing them. This is the organic world in which Generation Z is growing up. It largely determines their social framework.

Most companies are still organized in a hierarchical fashion. They have an obvious power structure, which is illustrated in the shape of a pyramid and unambiguous organizational charts. Unlike social networks, companies have clearly defined bosses, and clearly defined boundaries, too.

Continued on pg 4



## GENERATION Z...

Cont. from pg 3

Social networks do not have a security fence or a guard stationed at the main entrance. Companies do.

A large group of young networkers will flood the workplace around 2020. These kids are not accustomed to thinking in terms of hierarchical company structures or clear-cut boundaries. What's more, the old work ethic — "work hard, do what the boss says, keep quiet and pledge allegiance to your employer" — is foreign and irrelevant. This generation calls for a different approach, yet they will have to work with the hierarchical thinkers who are still part of the workforce.

For managers in 2020, the challenge will be figuring out how to cope with this clash of cultures.

**Statement 2: Generation Z is willing to share, but refuses to make any sacrifices.**

Everyone born prior to, say, 1990 was more or less forced to share material

goods. For most families, when it came to things like the radio, the television, the telephone or the computer, in most cases everyone had to agree on whose turn it was to use them. Many members of Generation Z, however, have grown up having exclusive user rights: their own computer that they use to download their music to their personal iPod. They use their own mobile phone to stay in touch with friends. They have their own room, which has its own television, which they are allowed to watch whatever they please.

For this generation, "sharing" has taken on a new meaning. In a non-digital environment, sharing is defined by not having as much for yourself when you share a biscuit, you are left with only half. But online, when you share a song or a game, you still have it; you simply grant others access to it. Sharing becomes an act of multiplication as opposed to division.

Offering something to your social network only improves your position, it never puts you at a disadvantage. Scarcity has become a foreign concept.

This is how Generation Z sees work, too. They assume that they will be able to get everything they want their way, without having to make any sacrifices. After all, this is how they were raised.

**Statement 3: From occupational choice to occupational obligation**

We can no longer afford to have rock academies and the like filled to capacity while facing severe personnel shortages in the health care, education and administrative sectors. We know in the meantime that half of all beauty school graduates will fail to find a job in their field. The same goes for game designers. These are two examples of popular training programmes that offer poor employment prospects.

Due to the growing short-

age of educated workers in crucial sectors, students will not have the same liberty of choosing a course of study based solely on their personal interests. The government will get involved in the process of choosing an occupation, the result of which will undoubtedly include a combination of rewards and restrictions.

**Statement 4: In 2020 the Internet will be regarded as a basic human necessity.**

On 21 September 2010 Neelie Kroes, European Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, announced that all EU citizens must have access to an ultra high speed Internet connection by the year 2020. The European Union will actively work towards achieving this goal. The decision fits in seamlessly with the belief shared by many members of Generation Z: the Internet is a basic human necessity. This generation believes that the Internet is on par with food, clean water, housing, education and access to health care; in other words, an individual cannot function properly without it.

Based on a study that dates back to 2005, 51% of the respondents regard the Internet as an essential part of their lives. According to a Belgian study involving 26,000 youngsters, a whopping 75% indicated that they "could not live without the Internet."

Considering that Internet access is basically the same as access to social media for these "Digital Natives," they will not accept being cut off from it during office hours. Already 24% of young people claim that they will turn down a job offer if they are not allowed to use Hyves or Facebook on company time. This percentage is expected to continue to rise.

Incidentally, companies can make all the rules they like but the fact is, anyone with an Internet-compatible mobile phone can go online whenever they like, wherever they like, and log onto their social network of choice. It may make more sense to treat this constant connection to social networks as an opportunity instead of a threat.

**Statement 5: The Internet is becoming so cluttered that it will become irrelevant as a source of information.**

The Internet is a giant repository. Everything including news, scientific knowledge, gossip and misinformation is posted online. The amount of information

that is available on the World Wide Web is increasing exponentially. As the sheer volume of data multiplies, the ability to evaluate it will become more and more difficult. What is actually true anymore? What is false?

Expectations are that the Internet will be such a jumble of mostly inaccurate information by 2020 that trust in this medium will erode.

Knowledge and information will primarily be sought within social networks or on websites where the veracity of the content has been confirmed.

**Statement 6: Online reputation is more important than online visibility.**

"Un-friending" was the trend of the year in 2009. Un-friending is the process of deleting superfluous online "friends" on social media sites. Many youngsters had amassed so many "friends" through the various grapevines that it was time to purge their lists.

Following the breakthrough of the Internet, the object was always to join as many networks as possible with as many friends as possible; now, however, we are seeing a backlash. Today, the number of people you know is subordinate to who you know. Social networking no longer revolves around being active on every single channel; instead, it is all about being on a limited number of channels in the appropriate way.

We see that reputation trumps mass appeal on Twitter, too. It is not about who you are following, but who is following you. The fact that someone is following Angelina Jolie on Twitter is not that interesting; after all, she has hundreds of thousands of followers. But when Angelina Jolie follows you, then you are someone special. Online, you are no longer distinguished by the number of friends you have but by the quality of your followers.

Online quality is becoming more important than online quantity. That applies not only to people but also to companies and institutions. Incidentally, this need for online quality is all part of the increasing lack of reliability of online information, of course, which we observed in the previous statement.

**Trends 7-12 and conclusions will be published in Monday's edition of THE MORNING NEWS**



Aruba's 60th Carnival

## ATA, SAC, DCA and Ministry Tourism... Cont. from pg 1

This year, for the first time, the final contest will be conducted in the newly completed Carnival Village in San Nicolas. The Ministry of Culture has also allotted 35,000 Aruban florins, (\$20,000) specifically for the Caiso and Soca Monarch Festival.

In total, 190,000 Aruban florins will be donated, largely coming from the ATA, represented for the signing of the MOU by CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes. More than half, 100,000 Aruban florins, will go to the Stichting Arubaanse Carnival

discretionary funds, to be distributed to the various carnival groups for their enrichment of their presentation during this Diamond Jubilee Carnival. Certain conditions apply, including the guaranteed creation and deployment of the more luxurious floats and roadpieces, insuring spectacular parades.

Signing the agreement on behalf of SAC, a purely volunteer foundation, was President Tecla Kelly-Hernandez, who with Hildward Croes, expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the financial and spiritual support of the vari-

ous agencies. All are in agreement that this year's Diamond Jubilee Carnival will be particularly memorable, and Minister Oduber remarked he is honored for his ministry and the ATA to be able to contribute to this vital event, which so richly enhances Aruba's tourism product.

By Rosalie Klein

### Line - Up Torch Parade

1. Royal Carnival Group
2. Majestic Group
3. T.O.B. Group
4. Champagne Group
5. META Soc. Club
6. Dushi .C. Group
7. XC-Lanz Group
8. Los Laga Bay
9. Pleasers & Teasers

### Carnaval Schedule

Sat. Jan 11:	8:00 p.m.	Aruba's Torch Parade
Sun. Jan 12:	6:30 p.m.	Aruba's Children, Youth and Prince and Pancho Election. (all three categories)



## Fakkeloptocht (Torch Parade) today with about 10.000 participants



ORANJESTAD -- Newly arrived visitors staying through Sunday have the opportunity to enjoy the first major event of Aruba's Golden Jubilee Carnival, this evening, January 11, from 8:00 PM until 2:00 AM. - the Fakkeloptocht-or Torch Parade.

This the first of dozens of joyful parades, pageants and parties that comprise Aruba's Carnival season which will end on March 4. The processions will fill the streets of Oranjestad with music and costumed dancers. This year, being an important landmark carnival, organizers anticipate exception participation.

At the registration of groups this week SAC's Rene Ridderstaat announced that there are 10 registered groups and that the total amount of participants has already surpassed 8.000.

He emphasized on the rules and regulations of the Police, SAC being respected regarding the safety of everyone on the streets.

The groups will be lined up as follows: Royal Carnival Group opens the parada, followed by Majestic - TOB - Champagne - Meta Social Club - XC-Lanz Carnival - Los Laga Bay - Pleasers & Teasers and OPC who will be closing the parade.

Rene requests all group leaders and participants to please be on time as the parade is scheduled to leave at 8 p.m. sharp. Leaving the D.O.W. building in the Paardenbaaistraat and reaching till the Las Americas Roundabout the parade enters the Vondellaan and continues up until after the roundabout at Banco di Caribe to then enter the Avenida Milo Croes to finish at Entertainment Center.

Everyone is reminded that the police Corps also have their own rules so again participants are requested to be on time so to avoid inconveniences.

Also all trailers and pullers, small mobile bars participating in the parade must contact DTI and police to obtain their stamp of approval or permission to be able to participate.



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## India expels US envoy in tit-for-tat row over consul's arrest

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The United States said Friday that it "deeply regrets" India's expulsion of a US embassy official in New Delhi in a bitter diplomatic dispute, but is seeking to patch up relations.

Ties have become increasingly frayed since December 12 when Indian consulate worker Devyani Khobragade was arrested in New York for alleged visa fraud and making false statements relating to the employment of a domestic servant.

India asked the US to withdraw an embassy official earlier Friday in a fresh retaliatory measure, just as the row over the arrest appeared to have cooled.

"We deeply regret that the Indian government felt it was necessary to expel one of our diplomatic personnel," US State Department spokeswoman, Jen Psaki, said.

"We're looking to move our relationship forward. We're looking to move past this challenging time, and we hope they'll be a partner in that," she said.

Khobragade was charged in a New York court on Thursday, but was granted full diplomatic immunity by Washington shortly beforehand, which allowed her to return home. She arrived back in New Delhi on Friday.

### No return to US

Khobragade will not be allowed to return to the US unless she surrenders to the court on arrival, and her name is being placed on American visa and immigration watchlists "to prevent the routine issuance of any future visa", Psaki added.

It was also possible that a warrant could be issued for her arrest now she has left the United States.

Khobragade's lawyer Dan Arshack told AFP that she was pleased to be returning to India.

"Her head is held high. She knows she has done no wrong and she looks forward to assuring that the truth is known," he said.

The expelled American diplomat was a "similar rank" to Khobragade and is suspected of having helped the family of her maid travel to America where they were granted protection by prosecutors.

US prosecutors said that the family of the maid were evacuated from India to the United States because of attempts to intimidate them.

Khobragade's arrest out-

side her children's school and treatment in custody, where the mother-of-two said she was subjected to a cavity search, outraged India which claimed she benefited from diplomatic immunity.

US prosecutors disputed this because she was a consular employee, and not a ranking embassy official.

They filed charges in New York and accused Khobragade of sometimes forcing the maid to work 100-hour weeks, even when sick and often without a day off, for pay as little as \$1.22 an hour.

The maid herself, Sangeeta Richard, issued a statement thanking rights groups and US officials for their support.

### A fight between allies

India and the United States have embraced each other as strategic partners, but the last few weeks have pummelled what US President Barack Obama's once described as "one of defining partnerships of the 21st century."

India has removed extra security barriers at the US embassy in New Delhi, demanded contract details for domestic staff employed by American diplomats and even stopped the mission importing duty-free alcohol.

The United States has invested heavily in improving ties with India, which it views as a key ally in its "pivot" to Asia, designed to check Chinese influence.

## US warns visitors to Sochi to stay vigilant

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States updated its travel alert Friday for the Sochi Winter Olympics, and specifically warned American gays about stringent new anti-gay laws.

Renewing appeals to all US citizens to "remain vigilant," the State Department said Americans "should remain attentive regarding their personal security at all times."

"Travelers to Sochi should expect increased police presence and enhanced security measures in and around the Olympic venues," the travel alert says.

While there was no "specific threat to US institutions or citizens," Americans should still "be aware of their personal surroundings and follow good security practices," the document says.

It recalls recent attacks in Russia, including three suicide bombings between October and December in the city of Volgograd that had already prompted a warning from the State Department for all travelers to be careful.

"US citizens are urged to remain vigilant and exercise good judgment and discretion when using any form of public transportation," the alert adds, advising visitors to tell family and friends about any travel plans.

It also warns about a controversial law banning "propaganda of homosexuality" to minors, which has led some lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists calling for a boycott of the Games opening next month.

"The law makes it a crime to promote LGBT equality in

public, but lacks concrete legal definitions for key terms," the State Department said, adding it was believed to apply to both Russians and foreigners visiting the country.

Foreigners found guilty of breaking the law could face fines of up to 100,000 rubles (\$3,100) as well as up to 14 days in jail and deportation.

Concern was also voiced about the standards of medical care available in the region, with sports fans urged to buy private medical insurance evacuation and repatriation plans.

"The Olympics are the first large-scale event to be held in Sochi and medical capacity and infrastructure in the region are untested for handling the volume of visitors expected for the Olympics," the travel alert adds.

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## US lawmakers propose key step to boost trade deals

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Lawmakers on Thursday proposed empowering US trade negotiators to push ahead major deals with Pacific Rim and European Union nations, but the move faces stiff opposition.

Three key lawmakers on trade policy introduced a bill to give President Barack Obama "fast-track authority," which would allow his team to negotiate agreements that Congress could approve or reject -- without making changes.

Supporters said the four-year extension of the powers, which last ended in 2007, is indispensable to speeding up trade negotiations.

The Obama administration has put a high priority on the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, seeing it as tying the United States more firmly to the dynamic Asia-Pacific region.



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## Dutchman accused of abusing 400 children on webcam

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch prosecutors suspect an Amsterdam man abused hundreds of children, some as young as 12, by getting them to perform sexual acts in front of their webcams, a spokesman said Friday.

"The man is suspected of enticing minors to perform sexual acts in front of their webcams while he pretended to be a girl," said Evert Boerstra of the public prosecutor's office in Amsterdam.

Police "retrieved images of around 400 minors from his computer," said Boerstra. He said there was no physical contact between the suspect and the children.

Details of the abuse

emerged in what prosecutors called an "extensive case" against the 40-year-old man only identified as Michel S, before the Amsterdam district court.

Michel S. was arrested in July.

Boerstra added so far 56 victims "most of whom are between 12 and 14 years old" have been identified.

Five complaints have been lodged, he said.

The victims are from across the Netherlands but authorities have also asked Belgian, Spanish and law enforcement in the United States to help in the investigation especially in identifying Internet service providers.

The children were both boys and girls, and Michel S. used diverse aliases in online chat-rooms to persuade his victims, Dutch news agency ANP said.

He also threatened to put the images online or send them to the victim's friends and family, it added.

The case against Michel S. is similar to that of a 48-year-old man from the town of Cruijk near the German border, who is under investigation for the online abuse of some 300 girls, some as young as 10.

Like in the case of Michel S., that suspect "groomed" his victims online, but unlike in the case of Michel S, he also allegedly had physical contact with his victims.

## Killing of boy, 4, by US troops frays Afghan ties further

KABUL (AFP) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Friday condemned US troops for killing a four-year-old boy in the southern province of Helmand, in a fresh strain to troubled relations between Washington and Kabul.

Helmand governor Naem Baloch told Karzai during a meeting in Kabul about the shooting, which comes as the US and Afghanistan wrangle over a deal to allow some US troops to remain in the country after this year.

The US-led NATO coalition in Afghanistan issued a state-

ment expressing "deepest sympathies to the family who suffered the loss of a loved one" in the incident on Wednesday and vowing to investigate "what happened and why".

Relations between Washington and Kabul have been poor for years, and negotiations over the bilateral security agreement (BSA) have erupted into a long-running public dispute.

Karzai made a surprise decision not to sign the agreement promptly despite having vowed to do so, leading to the threat of a complete with-

drawal of NATO troops by the end of 2014.

"We have been calling for the complete end of military operations in residential areas. This demand has not been taken seriously by foreign troops and the result is civilian casualties including women and children," presidential spokesman Aimal Faizi told AFP.

Addressing a regular briefing, US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said: "Obviously we would regret any casualties, any loss of life if these reports are accurate."

Civilian casualties have been one of the most sensitive issues of the 13-year military intervention in Afghanistan, and Karzai has often used accidental shootings and misguided airstrikes to berate foreign countries and stir public anger.

Faizi said a ban on military operations in civilian areas was one of the Afghan conditions of signing the BSA.

## Pakistani bomb hero teenager recommended for top award



PESHAWAR (AFP) - Police in Pakistan's troubled northwest have recommended a teenager who was killed stopping a suicide bomber from attacking a school for a top civilian honour. Aitzaz Hassan, 15, a student in Hangu district, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, on Monday tackled the bomber who had come to attack his school at a time when hundreds of students were inside. Hassan died in hospital after the bomber blew himself up at the school gates. No one else was wounded or killed in the incident.

## Former Miss Venezuela and partner laid to rest



CARACAS (AFP) - Relatives and friends carry the coffins with the remains of Venezuelan model Monica Spear (R) and British-born partner Thomas Henry Berry during their funeral at the East Cemetery in Caracas yesterday. The fatal shooting of former Miss Venezuela Monica Spear, an actress who lived and worked in the United States, during a vacation to her home country caused shock and revulsion, and triggered a government crisis meeting. Monica died protecting her 5-year-old daughter Maya under her body and between her legs in the front of their car.

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## Vaccinators refuse to join polio campaign in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (AFP) - Health workers in part of a troubled Pakistani tribal region Friday refused to participate in a polio vaccination campaign because of security threats, officials said.

The three-day campaign in the Khyber tribal district is due to start today, almost three weeks after gunmen shot dead a worker while he was administering polio drops and vaccines to children in the town of Jamrud.

Efforts to stamp out the crippling disease in Pakistan have been seriously hampered by militant attacks on health workers inoculating children.

The Pakistani Taliban banned polio vaccinations in the tribal region of Waziristan in 2012, alleging the campaign

was a cover for espionage.

"The employees at the civil hospital in Jamrud swore on oath that they will not join the campaign owing to serious security threats," a senior health official in the region told AFP on condition of anonymity.

He said these employees recently held talks with the local administration and demanded better security and higher wages for health workers.

He said the campaign would be launched according to schedule in Bara and Landi Kotal towns of Khyber from Saturday.

"If the health workers do not participate in the campaign in Jamrud, we will hire the local tribal police for the purpose," the official added.

One health worker in Jam-

rud told AFP he and his colleagues had received threats from militants on Thursday night warning them of serious consequences if they joined the campaign.

"Our lives are dear to us and we have decided not to join the campaign," he said, asking not to be named.

Pakistan is one of three countries in the world where polio remains endemic, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria.

Eradication efforts have also suffered due to long-standing rumours that the vaccine was part of a Western plot to sterilise Muslims.

According to the World Health Organization, Pakistan recorded 85 cases of polio last year compared with 58 in 2012.

## Europe watchdog advises suspending 'risky' osteoporosis drug

PARIS (AFP) - A committee of Europe's medicines watchdog on Friday recommended suspending the use of an osteoporosis drug, saying the risks, including heart attacks, outweighed the benefits.

The drug, Protelos/Osseor, is prescribed for people with the bone-crumbing disease who often suffer debilitating fractures.

A product of French firm Servier Laboratories, the medicine is said to make bones stronger and prevent breaks.

But the PRAC risk assessment committee of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) said the risks of serious heart problems, including heart attacks, blood clots and blocked arteries, were just too great.

For every 1,000 treated patients, there were four additional cases of serious heart problems and four of clotting among people using Protelos/Osseor compared to those given a placebo or dummy



treatment.

Other risks include seizures and liver inflammation.

As an osteoporosis treatment, the drug has shown a "modest effect" -- preventing about five non-spinal bone fractures, 15 spinal fractures and 0.4 hip fractures per 1,000 patients, the committee said.

"The PRAC weighed the benefits of the medicine against the known risks and concluded that the balance was no longer favourable, and recommended Protelos/Osseor be

suspended until there are new data showing a favourable balance in a defined patient group," a statement said.

The recommendation will next be considered by the EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use for a final decision.

Servier in a statement informed national health agencies of Friday's announcement, and said it would provide further information once the EMA review is concluded.



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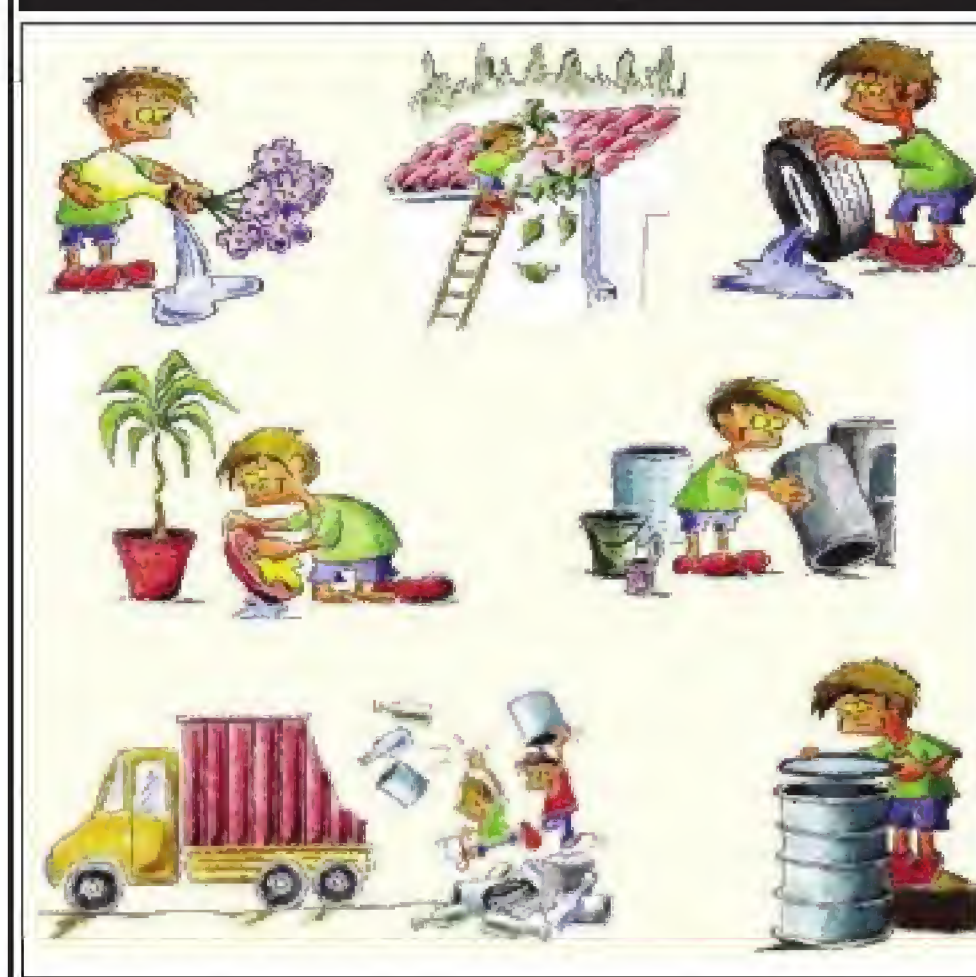
## Philippines bans lead after years-long campaign

MANILA (AFP) - The Philippines has banned the use of lead in a wide range of consumer products including toys and cosmetics, the government said Friday, after years of vocal campaigning by environmentalists. Executives of import, manufacturing, distribution or recycling firms that violate the order face



imprisonment of up to six months under the country's toxic substances law, the ministry said. Environmental groups welcomed the ban, while urging it to ensure its strict enforcement. The metal is used to make batteries, matches, metal alloys, paint, putty, ceramics, insecticides and explosives, among many others. The widespread use of lead has caused extensive environmental contamination and health problems in many parts of the world, according to the World Health Organization. The poison affects multiple organs and the health burden is borne mostly by developing countries, even as other countries have reduced its use in petrol, paint, plumbing and solder. Between 1997 and 2004, the environment department issued similar chemical control orders on cyanide, asbestos and mercury.

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## Golden Globes to launch wide-open awards season

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Hollywood's finest hit the red carpet Sunday for the Golden Globes, launching Tinseltown's most fiercely-contested awards season in years with a wide open field of hotly-tipped movies.

Historical drama "12 Years a Slave" and crime caper "American Hustle" are among the top contenders at the Globes, the first big show of a season which climaxes with the Oscars on March 2.

But others hoping for gold include 3D space spectacular "Gravity," Somali piracy movie "Captain Phillips," bleak family drama "August: Osage County" and Martin Scorsese's three-hour financial scandal epic "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Frontrunners in the best drama actor field include Briton Chiwetel Ejiofor for the title role in "12 Years a Slave," which could also earn a best director Globe for his compatriot Steve McQueen.

For best actress in a drama, the smart money is on Australian Cate Blanchett in Woody Allen's latest "Blue Jasmine," although others tipped include Sandra Bullock for "Gravity" and Emma Thompson taking on Walt Disney in "Saving Mr Banks."

On the small screen -- increasingly important as big-screen stars and money migrate to television -- Netflix's pioneering "House of Cards" could win more gold, as could cult hit "Breaking Bad," after its finale in September.

Going into Sunday night's show in Beverly Hills, "12 Years a Slave" and "American Hustle" have the most nominations with seven nods each, followed by five for black and white road movie "Nebraska."

Both frontrunners garnered nods for their main actors, including Ejiofor, Lupita Nyong'o and Michael Fassbender for "12 Years a Slave," and Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper, Amy Adams and Jennifer Lawrence for "American Hustle."

"Captain Phillips" starring Tom Hanks in a real-life tale of a US cargo ship attacked by Somali hijackers, and "Gravity", with Bullock as an astronaut abandoned in space with George Clooney, won four nods apiece.

Nominees for best motion picture drama, announced last month, were "12 Years a Slave," "Captain Phillips," "Gravity," "Philomena" and "Rush."

But there was a snub for "Lee

Daniels' "The Butler," another historical epic that had been widely tipped for honors for star Oprah Winfrey.

Nominated for best drama actor are Ejiofor, Hanks, Idris Elba for "Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom," Matthew McConaughey for "Dallas Buyers Club" and Robert Redford for "All Is Lost."

Three Britons are up for best drama actress: Thompson, Judi Dench for "Philomena" - about an Irish Catholic's search for her long-lost son --

and Kate Winslet for "Labor Day," as well as Blanchett and Bullock.

Nominees for best musical or comedy film are "American Hustle," "Her," "Inside Llewyn Davis," "Nebraska" and "The Wolf of Wall Street."

On the foreign film front, sexually explicit Cannes-winning French movie "Blue is the Warmest Color" is up against Iran's "The Past," Italy's "The Great Beauty," Denmark's "The Hunt" and animated Japanese film "The Wind

Rises."

"American Hustle" and "12 Years a Slave" have had a series of boosts in recent weeks, winning nominations from the Producers Guild of America (PGA) and the Directors Guild of America (DGA). In the last 10 years, all but one of the winners of the DGA's top prize went on to win the best director Oscar.

"12 Years a Slave" also topped nominations for the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) awards, announced last month.

Best director nominees are Alfonso Cuarón for "Gravity," David O. Russell for "American Hustle," Alexander Payne for "Nebraska," Paul Greengrass for "Captain Phillips" and McQueen for "12 Years a Slave."

On the small screen, nominations for best TV drama have gone to "Breaking Bad," which appeared to be the frontrunner, as well as to "Downton Abbey," "The Good Wife," "House of Cards" and "Masters of Sex."

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# THE STORY BEHIND EACH WEDDING

# WeddingsEleven

## Wedding Specialist, Indira Maduro joins THE MORNING NEWS



### Taking the Plunge



As another new year begins, new year's resolutions are made and new promises are pledged. Many love birds will get engaged and countless couples will take the plunge into marriage all over the world this year, too. But after more than a decade of reading books, collecting photos, magazine clippings and making notes, planning and coordinating many weddings on the Island, for me as an Aruba Wedding Specialist, the most natural next step is to write and share with all Brides-to-be, who are planning their Aruba Wedding. Besides writing for *THE MORNING NEWS*, we will also launch our new website: *WeddingsEleven.com* by end of this month. The website will feature different topics on planning your wedding in

Aruba with video and photo gallery. It will be integrated with social media sites such as Pinterest, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, so you can share your ideas as well with us and other future Brides and Grooms. Newlyweds can share with us by sending us their story, photos and video. They will be featured in My Wedding Story and inspire other couples planning their dream wedding in Aruba. We look forward to a year filled with beautiful weddings in Aruba and to share Your Aruba Wedding Story in *The Morning News* and on *WeddingsEleven.com*. A word of gratitude to Elly for taking this plunge with me. A special thanks to Sunny for his tremendous cooperation and to Joost and Linda for their creativity.

Indira

The Morning News is happy and proud to announce starting this January, the collaboration of Aruba's well known and experienced destination wedding planner, Indira Maduro to write and share all about weddings & honeymoons on the island with Brides & Grooms-to-be.

Indira Maduro has been planning and coordinating weddings for over 13 years, helping create beautiful weddings in Aruba. She is the founder of Aruba Fairy Tales, which she built from scratch when the concept of destination weddings in Aruba was completely in the starting face. With her expertise and knowledge she is ready to share valuable information in *The Morning News*, as well as on her blog and website *WeddingsEleven.com* which is currently being built and

promises to be modern and inspiring.

With great articles from veils to vows, trends, tips and advise, *WeddingsEleven.com* will be The Website to follow when it comes to gathering information and ideas for your Aruba Wedding.

So we invite you to follow us and share your story with us or with friends and family who are planning their Aruba Wedding and Honeymoon.



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*Gravity can not be held responsible  
for people falling in love."*

-Albert Einstein





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## Obama picks Stanley Fischer for Fed vice chair

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama Friday nominated former Israeli central bank governor and renowned economist Stanley Fischer as vice chair of the Federal Reserve, completing a shakeup of the board's leadership.

The president also named former under secretary of the Treasury Lael Brainard to join the Fed board, and renominated current Fed governor Jerome Powell for a full term, setting up a full team for incoming chairwoman Janet Yellen.

Yellen, the current vice chair, will take over from outgoing Chairman Ben Bernanke on February 1, after her nomination was confirmed by the Senate last week.

Each of the new nominees will need Senate confirmation, and although all three are well-qualified and widely respected, congressional politics could end up slowing that process.

"These three distinguished individuals have the proven experience, judgment and deep knowledge of the financial system to serve at the Federal Reserve during this important time for our economy," Obama said.

Fischer, 70 and a dual US and Israeli citizen, is one of the world's most respected active monetary economists. He led

Israel's central bank from 2005 to last year and before that held senior positions at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

He was a professor of Bernanke, as well as European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was reportedly considered by the White House as a replacement for Bernanke.

Brainard is well known abroad as she served as one of the president's top international economic advisers during a period of acute turbulence in the eurozone, during his first term.

Powell was a Treasury official in the former Republican administration of George HW Bush. He joined the Fed board in 2012 to fill an unfinished term that expires at the end of the month.

The nominations would bring the Fed board of governors up to a full complement of seven; one seat has been empty since August when governor Elizabeth Duke left.

## Israel summons Dutch envoy over bank boycott

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel summoned the Netherlands' ambassador on Friday, expressing anger at a decision by Dutch pension asset manager PGGM to divest from Israeli banks over settlement building in the West Bank.

Ambassador Caspar Veldkamp was summoned "for clarification" over the decision, the foreign ministry said.

The ministry "told the Dutch ambassador that the decision of the PGGM pension fund to divest from Israel is unacceptable and relies on false pretence," it said.

"We expect the government of the Netherlands... to take an unequivocal stance against such steps, which only wreak damage to the relations between Israel and the Netherlands."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said that PGGM's decision "was their own and has nothing to do with the Dutch government."

"We are against a boycott

and against sanctions (against Israel)," he told journalists at his weekly news conference in The Hague. "But we are against the settlements."

Dutch "companies are free to do business within the settlements, but we would not support that," Rutte added.

PGGM, one of the largest pension asset managers in the Netherlands, said on Wednesday it was divesting from five Israeli banks because they finance Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The announcement came a month after a major Dutch water supplier ended a partnership with an Israeli water company which supplies Israeli towns and Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

"PGGM recently decided to no longer invest in five Israeli banks," said the company, which manages about 153 billion euros (\$208 billion) in funds.

"The reason for this was

their involvement in financing Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories.

PGGM said there was "a concern, as the settlements in the Palestinian territories are considered illegal under humanitarian law," and regarded by international observers as an "important obstacle to a peaceful (two-state) solution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict."

Senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi commended PGGM for "translating its corporate social responsibility policy into practise."

"Steps by corporations such as PGGM, as well as practical measures that European governments have been taking, finally make Israel realise that it is not above the law," she said in a statement.

The foreign ministry statement came as Israel unveiled more than 1,800 new settler homes in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, in a move Palestinians said would scupper US efforts towards reaching a Middle East peace deal.

## Target says data breach hit 70 mn customers

NEW YORK (AFP) - Giant US retailer Target said Friday that its recent data breach affected many more consumers and types of customer information than originally thought, and that the debacle hit December sales.

Target sharply lowered its fourth-quarter earnings outlook and said it was unable yet to estimate the costs related to the breach.

Target revealed on December 19 its payment card data had been breached, affecting about 40 million customers.

The stolen data included credit and debit card data, customer names and PIN (personal identification data) numbers.

But Friday, Target said the ongoing forensic investigation had revealed that hackers also obtained other forms of customer data, including names, mailing addresses, phone numbers or email addresses for up to 70 million people.

"I know that it is frustrating for our guests to learn that this information was taken and we are truly sorry they are having to endure this," Gregg Steinhafer, Target chairman, president and chief executive, said in a statement.

Target said consumers would have "zero liability" due to any fraudulent charges arising from the breach. It offered one year of free credit monitoring protection.

Target is cooperating with an investigation led by the Justice Department and Secret Service about the data breach. A group of state attorneys general have launched a parallel investigation aimed at protecting victims.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who has joined the state probe, called the latest Target disclosure "deeply troubling."

"Consumers in New York and around the country expect

and deserve companies that protect their personal information when they shop on their websites and in their stores," Schneiderman said in a statement.

Target also said fourth-quarter earnings had been hit by "meaningfully weaker-than-expected sales" since it disclosed the data breach.

Target now expects fourth-quarter comparable store sales to decline 2.5 percent from its prior forecast of flat sales.

Target said earnings for its US segment were estimated for the fourth quarter at \$1.20-\$1.30 per share, down from the prior guidance of \$1.50-\$1.60 per share.

The company said it may need to take a charge for expenses related to the data breach to cover a number of potential costs, including reimbursements for credit card fraud, liabilities from civil litigation, government investigations and enforcement proceedings.

"These costs may have a material adverse effect on Target's results of operations in fourth quarter 2013 and/or future periods," Target said.

Target shares have underperformed the S&P 500 since the disclosure. Target shares dropped 1.2 percent in midday trade Friday.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	M	A	S	C	A	L	D
D	E	L	C	E	D	A	R
T	I	D	E	H	O	A	G
W	E	I	R	D	O	M	E
A	U	C	T	I	O	N	R
A	L	A					
A	R	C	Z	H	I	V	A
B	O	A	S	O	L	I	V
B	U	R	E	A	U	C	O
A	N	G	E	R	S	K	I
D	O	D	G	E	I	D	S



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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Martinelli et al.  
6 "Family \_\_\_\_" (Hitchcock)  
10 Went to the plate  
12 "\_\_\_\_ Precious Love"  
13 Chest of drawers  
14 Pretense  
15 Groom's phrase (2 wds.)  
16 Dinner  
18 Actress Campbell  
20 Take it on the \_\_\_\_  
21 Garbo of films  
23 Lawful  
27 Lend a hand  
29 Auto dealer's model  
30 Pooh's friend  
33 Vinyl records (abbr.)

34 Columnist Barry

35 Super-market divisions

37 Manipulator

38 Ten years

39 Jimmy Durante's trademark

40 Begat

DOWN

1 Waning  
2 Praiser  
3 Tried very hard  
11 Fencing match  
17 Comrade  
19 Bric-a-brac

see our website:  
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

4 Munched on

5 Burn

6 Pharaoh's tomb

7 Actor Gossett et al.

8 Remove from office

9 Three (Ital.)

22 Feel lousy

24 Basement

25 Hinder progress

26 Flung

28 The Grateful \_\_\_\_

30 El \_\_\_\_

31 Singer Burl

32 Binds

34 Urge payment

36 \_\_\_\_-fi





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Sudoku



SOLUTION



Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## O Condominiums

# A small, exclusive boutique condo resort tailored to your taste



Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge

services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

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## Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at *The Queen's*



**Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen**

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generation. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-

tion of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

**The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.**



## Aruba Table Tennis Association organizes Betico Croes 2014 Cup

ORANJESTAD - On Saturday, January 25th, the Aruba Table Tennis Association will be organizing the Betico Croes 2014 Cup in the Betico Croes Sports Center.

The tournament is scheduled to begin at 10 in the morning with 12 tables of athletes competing to be the best for the day.

The first game will be in the youth category: U10, U14, U18 and Masters from 10:00am to 12:30 noon.

In the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:30pm the competition will continue in the Open categories, B-class and C-class.

For the third time ATTA will open the Open category, which will allow everyone to try their luck with the best players.

During his days, Betico



Croes also played Table Tennis, even during his years studying in Holland. When he returned to Aruba he played at the Estrella Club.

The Lotto pa Deporte Subsidy Commission is pleased to support our federations that

have organized sports events in connection with the Betico Day celebrations.

Every year the majority of our federations organize special sports events to celebrate the birth of a great Aruban on his birth day.

## Aruba Amateur Weightlifting Association organizes Betico Croes Cup Tournament

ORANJESTAD - On Saturday, January 25th, the Aruba Amateur Weightlifting Association (AAWA) will be organizing their first weightlifting competition, which is the Betico Croes Cup Tournament.

This is planned to take place in the Frans Figaroa Sports Center in Noord.

The weighing in of the athletes will start at 1:00pm with the competition to begin at 3:00 in the afternoon. Weightlifters are in earnest preparation for this competition. They will be competing in the senior, junior, youth and master categories.

This competition is especially important for two athletes, namely, Jennifer Piter and Ulrich Hoek who are both part of the Aruba selection.



Both athletes have an opportunity to compete in the South American 2014 Games to be held in the month of March in Chile.

The Lotto pa Deporte Subsidy Commission is pleased to support the federations organ-

izing these special events in connection with the celebration of Betico Day.

Every year the majority of our federations plan sports events on January 25th celebrating the birth of a great Aruban

## Arubaanse Zwembond organizes swimming competition

ORANJESTAD - In connection with the celebration of Betico Day, the Arubaanse Zwembond is organizing a one day competition for their athletes.

This is planned for Friday evening January 24th at 7:00pm. Athletes of the three swimming clubs on Aruba, namely, the Aruba Dolphins, Stingray Swimming, and the Orca's Swimming Team will measure forces against each other in the different disciplines and swimming distances.

There will also be a time trial for swimmers to classify for the Carifta competitions and for the CISC competitions



to take place in Barbados. The competitions will be held in the Roly Bisslik Olympic pool in Savaneta.

The Lotto pa Deporte Subsidy Commission is pleased to contribute to the federations

organizing these sports events in connection with the Betico Day celebrations. Every year the majority of the federations plan sports events on January 25th celebrating the birth date of a great Aruban.

## BRIEFS:



THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Prime Minister Mark Rutte will attend the opening of the Sochi Winter Olympics, despite calls to boycott the event over Moscow's human rights record. Rutte and Willem-Alexander, an honorary International Olympic Committee member, will be accompanied by Willem-Alexander's wife Maxima and Sports Minister Edith Schippers. A number of countries including the United States, France, Germany and Britain have indicated that their top leaders would not attend the Winter Olympics' opening ceremony on February 7.



VIENNA (AFP) - Olympic ski jumping champion Thomas Morgenstern of Austria was hospitalised Friday after suffering another serious crash during training at Tauplitz. The spectacular fall, his second in a month, saw Morgenstern lose balance in mid-air and land heavily on his back and head before sliding lifelessly to the bottom of the slope. The 27-year-old, one of Austria's leading gold medal hopes for the Sochi Winter Olympics which get underway on February 7, briefly lost consciousness and was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with "serious skull injuries and a lung contusion," the Austrian ski federation (OeSV) said in a statement. The doctor treating him, Josef Obrist, was quoted by the Austria Press Agency as saying that Morgenstern's life was not in danger.





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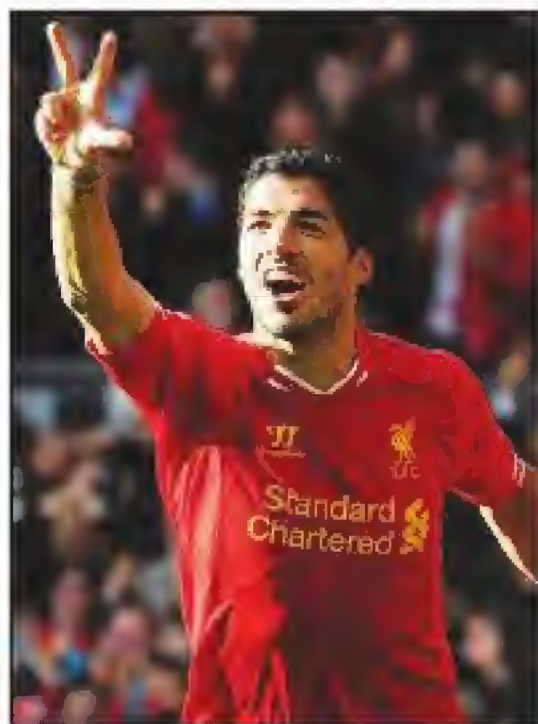
## Football: New man Suarez vows to stay out of trouble

LONDON (AFP) - Liverpool striker Luis Suarez insists he has finally learnt how to keep his explosive temper and cynical instincts under control.

Suarez has played a key role in Liverpool's emergence as surprise contenders for the Premier League title this season after surviving one of the darkest periods of his controversial career.

The Uruguay international has played only 15 league matches this term as he had to serve the remaining half of a 10-match ban for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic in April.

The season before that the 26-year-old was banned for eight matches after being found guilty of racially abusing Manchester United's Patrice Evra.



He has also been accused of diving at times and earned widespread criticism for cynically conceding a penalty with a handball during the 2010 World Cup quarter-final against Ghana.

Suarez was sent off for the offence, but Ghana missed the penalty and Uruguay went on to win the tie.

But he has worked hard to keep his volatile emotions in check of late, telling ESPN: "My temperament, attitude, desire and hunger when I am

on the pitch has always been like this and will continue to be this way, but I now know I have to control it more.

Securing a place in next season's Champions League is widely seen as vital to ensuring Suarez doesn't once again agitate for a move away from Anfield in the close-season.

He tried unsuccessfully to engineer a move to Arsenal before the start of the current campaign, angering Reds boss Brendan Rodgers in the process, but he has put that row behind him by scoring 20 Premier League goals already this term.

Liverpool are currently fourth in the table, the last of the Champions League qualifying spots, and Suarez is determined to ensure his side remain there until the end of the season.

"On the pitch I try to help Liverpool and I try to help the squad, and I think for confidence it is very good," Suarez said after winning the Barclays award for the Premier League player of the month on Friday.

## Football: Moyes charged over referee remarks

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United manager David Moyes was charged with misconduct by the Football Association on Friday after criticising match officials after his side's defeat by Sunderland on Tuesday. Moyes said United were "playing referees as well as the opposition" following a 2-1 League Cup semi-final first leg reverse at the Stadium of Light on Tuesday, his side's third defeat in a row in all competitions. The Scot questioned the awarding of a free-kick that led to Sunderland's opening goal and a penalty, having already said it was "scandalous" United were not awarded a late penalty against Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford. "I feel we are having to play the opposition and the referees. We are all just laughing at them at the minute," Moyes said Tuesday. Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers was fined £8,000 (\$13,177) and warned as to his conduct on Thursday after admitting a similar charge. Moyes has until 6pm local time (1800GMT) on January 15 to respond to the charge.

## Probe of Neymar signing demanded

MADRID (AFP) - A Spanish prosecutor on Friday demanded the courts investigate allegations of misappropriation by Barcelona in their 57-million-euro (\$73 million) signing of Brazilian star striker Neymar last year.

A member of the fan-owned club, currently the Spanish league leaders, has lodged a complaint against its president Sandro Rosell alleging misappropriation of 40 million euros out of the total fee paid for Neymar.

Contracts shown to the courts by the club support "doubts raised in the complaint over the signing", public prosecutor Jose Perals said in a court filing.

He called on the National Audience, Spain's highest criminal court, to launch a judicial investigation into the complaint.

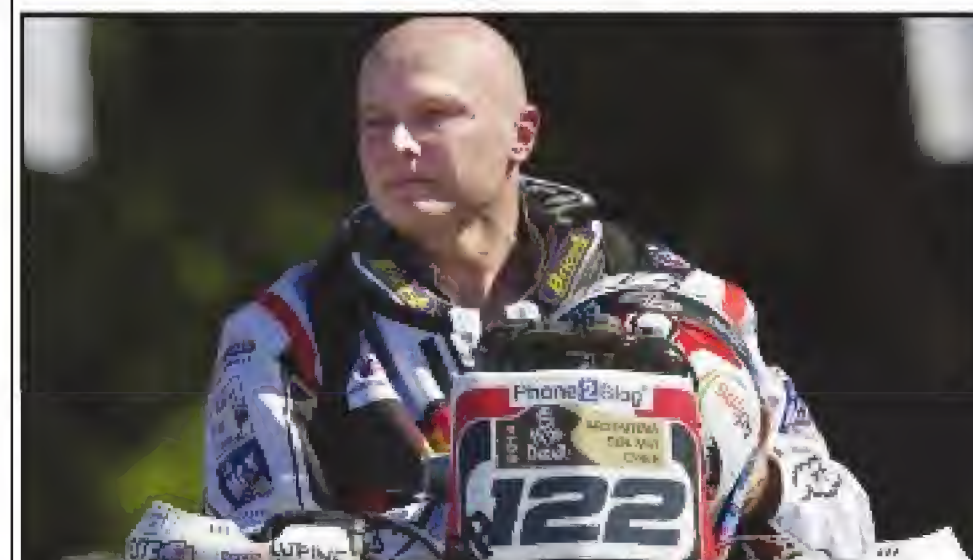
Barcelona has said it paid a total 57 million euros to sign Neymar Da Silva Santos Junior from Brazilian club Santos in June, but it declined to give full details, citing a need for confidentiality.

The complaint accuses Rosell of misappropriation of funds because members do not know the "real destination" of 40 million euros supposedly paid to Neymar family business N&N, according to court documents.

The prosecutor said contracts shown to the court by the club on the judge's orders contained conflicting details about what exactly the 40 million euros were paid for.

The prosecutor called on the judge to ask soccer's governing body FIFA to get hold of more documentation related to the signing, including contracts from Santos.

## Rallying: Veteran Dakar Rally rider dies



SALTA (AFP) - An experienced Belgian motorbike rider has died competing in this year's Dakar Rally, organisers announced on Friday. Eric Palante, 50, riding for the Honda team, died on Thursday's fifth stage between Chilecito and Tucuman in Argentina. Palante, in his 11th Dakar, was the third person associated with the gruelling race to die on Thursday after two members of an Argentine news team perished when their car plunged into a ravine. Dakar organisers ASO issued a statement reporting that a technical support truck had discovered Palante's lifeless body at 0830 local time Friday at the 143 kilometre mark of the stage. Palante is the 23rd competitor in 36 editions to die in the Dakar Rally.

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## Football: Ribery would be worthy Ballon d'Or winner, says Sammer



BERLIN (AFP) - Bayern Munich sporting director Matthias Sammer on Friday insisted that the Bavarian club's French winger Franck Ribery deserves to win the Ballon d'Or having been "the most complete player" in 2013.

"I think that only he can win. And if he does so, he will be at the summit of Mount Olympus," said Sammer from Bayern's winter training camp in Doha, Qatar.

"If he doesn't win, he will have to wait for next year," added Sammer, who won the award himself back in 1996.

Ribery is part of a three-man shortlist along with Real Madrid and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, the favourite having scored 69 goals in 2013, and Barcelona and Argentina's Lionel Messi, who has won the award in the last four years.

Now 30, the French international was part of a Bayern side that won five trophies in 2013 - Champions League, Bundesliga, German Cup, European Super Cup and Club World Cup.

"We are pleased that he plays for us and we hope that he becomes the first Bayern player to be named the best player in the world," added Bayern chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

The winner will be announced at a gala event in Zurich, Switzerland on Monday.



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## NFL: Record-setting Broncos face first playoff test Sunday

DENVER (AFP) - Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos, who set National Football League records for passing and points, open their playoff run Sunday against the San Diego Chargers, who upset them last month.

Quarter-final playoff matchups find Indianapolis at New England on today and San Diego at Denver on Sunday in the American Conference, with New Orleans at Seattle on Saturday and San Francisco at Carolina on Sunday in the National Conference.

Winners advance to the conference finals on January 19 that will determine the teams for Super Bowl 48 on February 2 in suburban New York.

The Broncos went 13-3 to secure a first-round bye and a home-field playoff edge, setting a one-season record with 606 points as Manning set new season marks with 5,477 passing yards and 55 touchdown passes.

But the Chargers, who only qualified for the playoffs on the last day of the season, are coming off a 27-10 first-round upset win at Cincinnati and have confidence from a 27-20 shock win at Denver on December 12.

Chargers coach Mike McCoy served as Denver's of-



fensive coordinator from 2009-2012, giving him insight into how to thwart Manning and the Broncos.

"The longer you keep the ball and the less he has it, the better off you're going to be," McCoy said.

The Broncos were without receiver Wes Welker for the San Diego loss but he has recovered from a concussion and will be a prime playoff target for Manning, who shrugs off memories of Denver's 38-35 double-overtime home playoff loss to eventual Super Bowl champion Baltimore in this round last year.

"Each season takes on its own identity and different things occurred along the way," Manning said.

Manning won his only Super Bowl with Indianapolis in 2007 and he might face his former club again in the conference final if the Colts, led by Manning replacement Andrew Luck, can topple the Patriots, quarterbacked by three-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady, who has a record 17 playoff victories.

While the Patriots had a bye last week, Luck lived up to his name, rallying the Colts from a 28-point deficit for a 45-44 playoff triumph over Kansas City.

"A great team victory and one for the ages," said Colts coach Chuck Pagano. "Our guys are unbelievable. They stuck to the process and never doubted. We did just enough to

advance."

Colts defender Robert Mathis, who led the NFL with 19.5 sacks, could make Brady's day long.

At Seattle, the Seahawks also enjoyed a bye week after a 13-3 season that gave them a home-field playoff edge. A crowd known for noise so loud that rivals cannot hear instructions brings a big boost, but the New Orleans Saints have worked with loud noise piped into their facility this week.

"It is deafening," Saints coach Sean Payton said of the Seattle stadium atmosphere. "They do a great job. The way the stadium is structured, the noise stays in."

New Orleans knows that all too well after losing in Seattle 34-7 last month. The Seahawks defense led the NFL in fewest points allowed, fewest yards allowed, pass defense, takeaways and interceptions.

The Carolina-San Francisco game is a rematch from the regular season as well -- the Panthers edged the host 49ers 10-9 in November.

While Carolina enjoyed a first-round bye, the 49ers won 23-20 at Green Bay last weekend.

The game figures to hinge upon which star quarterback, Carolina's Cam Newton or San Francisco's Colin Kaepernick, can be the most successful.